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Virginia Folk-Lore Society

A Great Movement to Collect and Save to the State and Nation the English and Scottish Ballads Surviving in this Commonwealth

Teachers, Pupils and School Patrons
Asked to Help

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Teachers Should Lend Assistance

VIRGINIA is rich in everything that goes to make a Commonwealth great. Climate, soil, location and topography are hers, as well as traditions and the "breed and disposition" of her people. Virginia's latest revelations of wealth are two and both have come as with the miner's pick. One is material, the other spiritual. Witness the great development of coal and iron during the past twenty years. That is the material side of our story. The spiritual gift, on the other hand, is a literary treasure-trove, the ballad,—found also for the most part in our mountains. There descendants of the sturdy Scotch-Irish immigrants have kept alive those wonderful English and Scottish ballads of the fifteenth century—songs which remain today "as fresh and moving in their simple beauty, as poignant in their pathos and as heart-stirring in their rude power as when they were first sung."

This source of spiritual wealth, this breath of song, fresh as the breezes which fan the cheeks of a mountain lassie, is being unearthed and restored to the world through the efforts of folk-lore societies. The United States Bureau of Education has commissioned Dr. C. Alphonso Smith, of the University of Virginia, to institute a nation-wide search for versions of these old ballads that helped to mould the character of men and women who made up the larger part of the Colonial population of this country.

Dr. Smith knows that his home is in the very midst of his richest field and he has honored our State school system by insisting that the public school teachers are better fitted than any others to inaugurate and prosecute the search. He is trying to stimulate ballad research in all the States but actually to collect only the ballads surviving in Virginia.

Transmitted entirely by oral tradition, the ballads under the influences of modern life already have been driven into remote neighborhoods and they will soon be forgotten. I bespeak the prompt and active efforts of teachers, pupils and patrons to recover this almost forgotten and widely hidden wealth. Gather up the fragments eagerly, gladly; gather them up quickly that nothing be lost.

"In the highlands, in the country places,
Where the old plain men have rosy faces
And the young fair maidens
Quiet eyes;
Where essential silence cheers and blesses,
And forever in the hill recesses
Her more lovely music
Broods and dies."

There lies the treasure-trove to which I refer; and who will refuse to share the find with all the world which is waiting for it from the king upon his throne to the gardener in his cottage?

R. C. STEARNES,

Superintendent of Public Instruction

A Great Movement in Which Everyone Can Help

BY C. ALPHONSO SMITH, *President of the Virginia Folk-Lore
Society, University, Va.*

ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH BALLADS.—One of the greatest pieces of research work ever done by an American was Prof. Francis J. Child's edition in 10 parts of "The English and Scottish Popular Ballads" (1882-1898). He found that there were 305 of these old ballads, and nobody has yet succeeded in increasing or diminishing this number. You will find all of these ballads (except 5) and many variants of them in a single volume called "English and Scottish Popular Ballads," edited by Helen Child Sargent and George Lyman Kittredge (Boston, 1904).

ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH BALLADS SURVIVING IN AMERICA.—An interesting discovery made in recent years is that many of these old ballads were brought by the earliest settlers to the United States and have been kept alive through oral tradition ever since. Prof. Child made no studied attempt to collect these American survivals, noting them only incidentally. He reports, if my count is correct, 2 in Maine, 2 in New Hampshire, 10 in Massachusetts, 5 in New York, 1 in Pennsylvania, 1 in Maryland, 4 in Virginia, 4 in North Carolina, and 1 in South Carolina. If we omit duplicates, the total is only 17. Now, however, at least 56 of the ballads in Prof. Child's list have been found in the United States and the search has hardly begun.

IMPORTANCE OF COLLECTING AMERICAN SURVIVALS.—Sidney Lanier did not overstate it when he said of these old ballads, "I know that he who walks in the way these following ballads point will be manful in necessary fight, fair in trade, loyal in love, generous to the poor, tender in the household, prudent in living, plain in speech, merry upon occasion, simple in behavior, and honest in all things." But if our American versions are not collected quickly they can never be collected at all. It is now or never. Many influences are tending to obliterate them. Catchy, but empty, songs not worthy of comparison with them, the decadence of communal singing, the growing diversity of interests, the appeal to what is divisive and separative in our national life, the presence of the artificial and self-conscious in modern writing are depriving our homes and schoolrooms of a kind of literature which, for community of feeling, for vigor of narrative, for vividness of portraiture, and for utter simplicity of style and content is not surpassed in the whole history of English or American song.

+ Now (April 3, 1914) thirty.

x THE VIRGINIA FOLK-LORE SOCIETY.—The Virginia Folk-Lore Society was organized in Richmond, April 17, 1913. Its main purpose, for the present at least, will be to collect and thus to save to the State and Nation the English and Scottish ballads surviving in Virginia. Twenty-six of the original 305 ballads have, in whole or in part, already been found in Virginia. No other single State has reported so large a number. Five of those reported from Virginia have been found nowhere else in the United States. This is an excellent beginning and fully justifies the statement made in our first Bulletin: "No State in the Union offers so rich a field for the student of folk-lore as Virginia." But only seventeen counties have been heard from, and one of these, Rockingham, has furnished exactly half of the ballads thus far found. There is no reason to think that Rockingham has more ballads than any other county, but it has been more intelligently and systematically worked. There is also no reason to think that Tidewater Virginia has fewer ballads than the portions of the State lying farther west, but the Tidewater counties are almost unrepresented in our list of finds. Enough ballads have been collected, however, from the different sections of the State to convince the members of the Virginia Folk-Lore Society that no county need go unrepresented. The great need is for intelligent co-operation. This is an educational work in which all can help who will. The teachers of the State, however, especially those in the common schools, can help most effectively.

How YOU CAN HELP.—You can help by reading carefully the subjoined list of the 305 English and Scottish ballads and by sending to the President of the Virginia Folk-Lore Society, at the University of Virginia, any version or versions of these ballads that you may know. If they are all unfamiliar to you, perhaps there is a pupil in your school, or a parent, or a patron, or a friend not connected with the school, who knows or is likely to know several of them. The report even of a fragment will be welcome. You will be surprised to find that many versions of these old ballads are at your very door or may be obtained by a little effort and tact. Write the ballad down just as it is sung, mistakes and all, and tell when, where, and from whom it was learned. Send the music, too, if you can. Remember that two versions of the same ballad are almost as valuable as two different ballads. Nothing learned from books is wanted.

THE COMPLETE LIST.—Here are the titles in alphabetical order of the 305 English and Scottish ballads collected and numbered by Professor Child, his numbering being retained. The different names under which some of these ballads go are given in parentheses. The starred ballads are those that have been found in one or more versions in Virginia. Please keep this list for reference.

- Adam Bell, Clim of the Clough, and William of Cloudesly, 116.
Alison and Willie, 256 (My Love She Lives in Lincolnshire).
Alison Gross, 35.
Andrew Lammie, 233 (The Trumpe-ter of Fyvie).
Archie o' Cawfield, 188.
Auld Matrons, 249.
Babylon, 14 (The Bonnie Banks o' Fordie).
The Baffled Knight, 112 (The Over Courteous Knight).
The Bailiff's Daughter of Islington, 105 (True Love Requited).
The Baron of Brackley, 203.
The Baron o' Leys, 241.
The Battle of Harlaw, 163.
The Battle of Otterburn, 161.
The Battle of Philiphaugh, 202.
The Beggar-Laddie, 202 (The Shepherd Boy).
The Bent sae Brown, 71.
*Bessie Bell and Mary Gray, 201.
Bewick and Graham, 211.
Blancheflour and Jellyflorice, 300.
The Bold Pedlar and Robin Hood, 132.
Bonnie Annie, 24 (The High Banks o' Yarrow).
Bonny Baby Livingston, 222 (Barbara Livingston).
*Bonny Barbara Allan, 84 (Barbara Allen's Cruelty, Barbara Ellen, Barbro Allen).
Bonny Bee Hom, 92.
The Bonny Birdy, 82.
The Bonny Earl of Murray, 181.
The Bonny Hind, 50.
The Bonnie House o' Airlie, 199.
Bonnie James Campbell, 210 (Bonnie George Campbell).
Bonny John Seton, 198.
The Bonny Lass of Anglesey, 220.
Bonnie Lizie Baillie, 227.
Bothwell Bridge, 206.
The Boy and the Mantle, 29.
The Braes o' Yarrow, 214 (The Dowy Houms o' Yarrow).
The Broom of Cowdenknows, 217 (The Laird of Knotington, Bonny May).
The Broomfield Hill, 43 (I'll Wager, I'll Wager).
Broughty Wa's, 258 (Burd Helen).
Brown Adam, 98 (Brown Edom).
The Brown Girl, 295 (The Bonny Brown Girl).
Brown Robin, 97 (Love Robbie).
Brown Robyn's Confession, 57.
Burd Ellen and Young Tamlane, 28.
Burd Isabel and Earl Patrick, 257 (Burd Bell).
Captain Car, 178 (Edom o' Gordon).
Captain Ward and the Rainbow, 287.
Captain Wedderburn's Courtship, 46 (The Earl of Rosslyn's Daughter).
The Carnal and the Crane, 55.
Charlie MacPherson, 234.
The Cherry-Tree Carol, 54 (Joseph Was an Old Man).
Child Maurice, 83 (Child Noryce, Gil Morice).
Child Owlet, 291.
Child Waters, 63 (Burd Ellen).
Christopher White, 108.
Clerk Colvill, 42 (The Mermaid).
Clerk Saunders, 69.

- The Clerk's Twa Sons o' Owsenford, 72.
- Clyde's Water, 216 (The Mother's Malison, Willie and May Margaret).
- The Coble o' Cargill, 242.
- The Crafty Farmer, 283 (The Crafty Miller).
- Crow and Pie, 111.
- The Cruel Brother, 11 (The Bride's Testament).
- *The Cruel Mother, 20 (The Duke's Daughter's Cruelty, Greenwood Side, Three Little Babes).
- *The Daemon Lover, 243 (James Harris, The House Carpenter, The Carpenter's Wife).
- The Death of Parcy Reed, 193.
- The Death of Queen Jane, 170 (Queen Jeanie).
- Dick o' the Cow, 185.
- Dives and Lazarus, 56.
- Drumclog, 205 (Loudon Hill).
- Dugall Quin, 294 (Donald McQueen's Flight wi' Lizzie Menzie).
- The Duke of Athole's Nurse, 212.
- The Duke of Gordon's Daughter, 237 (The Duke of Gordon's Three Daughters).
- Durham Field, 159.
- Earl Bothwell, 174.
- *Earl Brand, 7 (The Douglas Tragedy, Fair Ellender, The Seven Brothers, Sweet William and Fair Ellen, The Child of Ell).
- Earl Crawford, 229.
- The Earl of Aboyne, 235.
- The Earl of Errol, 231 (Kate Carnegie).
- The Earl of Mar's Daughter, 270.
- The Earl of Westmoreland, 177.
- Earl Rothes, 297.
- *Edward, 13 (What is that on the end of your sword?).
- The Elfin Knight, 2 (The Wind Hath Blown my Plaid Away, The Cambric Shirt).
- Eppie Morrie, 223.
- Erlinton, 8.
- Fair Annie, 62 (Lord Thomas and Fair Annie, Burd Helen, Lady Jane).
- The Fair Flower of Northumberland, 9 (The Ungrateful Knight and the Fair Flower of Northumberland).
- Fair Janet, 64 (Fair Janet and Sweet William).
- *Fair Margaret and Sweet William, 74 (Margaret's Ghost, Lady Margaret, William and Margaret).
- Fair Mary of Wallington, 91 (The Bonny Earl of Livingston).
- The False Knight Upon the Road, 3.
- The False Lover Won Back, 218 (The Place Where My Love Johnny Dwells).
- The Famous Flower of Serving-Men, 106.
- The Farmer's Curs't Wife, 278 (The Old Man Under the Hill, A Woman and the Devil).
- Fause Foodrage, 89 (The Eastmure King and the Westmure King).
- The Fire of Frenndraught, 196.
- Flodden Field, 168.
- The Friar in the Well, 276 (The Friar Well Fitted, The Friar and Fair Maid).
- The Gardener, 219.
- The Gay Goshawk, 96.
- Geordie, 209 (The Laird of Gigh, Georgia).
- The George Aloe and the Sweep-stake, 285.
- A Gest of Robyn Hode, 117.
- Get Up and Bar the Door, 275 (John Blunt).
- Gil Brenton, 5.
- Glasgerion, 67 (Glenkindie).
- Glasgow Peggie, 228.
- Glenlogie, 238 (Jean o' Bethelnie).
- *The Golden Vanity, 286 (The Low

- Lands Low, The Sweet Trinity,
The French Galley, The Little
Cabin Boy, The Green Willow
Tree, The Yellow Golden Tree).
The Great Silkie of Sule Skerry,
113.
The Grey Cock, 248 (Saw You My
Father?).
Gude Wallace, 157 (Sir William
Wallace).
The Gypsy Laddie, 200 (Johnny Faa,
The Gypsy Davy, The Gypsy Dai-
sy, Lord Garrick, Black Jack Da-
ley).
The Heir of Linne, 267.
Henry Martyn, 250 (Andrew Bartin,
Andy Bardan).
Hind Etin, 41 (Young Akin)
Hind Horn, 17.
Hobie Noble, 189.
The Holy Nunnery, 303.
Hugh Spencer's Feats in France, 158
(Hugh Spencer).
Hughie Grame, 191 (The Life and
Death of Sir Hugh of the Grime).
The Hunting of the Cheviot, 162
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James Grant, 197.
James Hatley, 244 (Jamie O'Lee).
Jamie Douglas, 204 (Lord Douglas,
The Laird of Blackwood).
Jamie Telfer in the Fair Dodhead,
190.
Jellon Grame, 90 (Hind Henry).
*The Jew's Daughter, 155 (Sir
Hugh, Hugh of Lincoln, The Jew's
Garden, Little Harry Hughes and
the Duke's Daughter).
Jock o' the Side, 187 (John a Side).
Jock the Leg and the Merry Mer-
chant, 282.
John Dory, 284.
*John of Hazelgreen, 293 (Jock o'-
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strong's Last Goodnight).
Johnie Cock, 114 (Johnie of Cock-
erslee).
Johnie Scott, 99 (Jack, the Little
Scot).
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The Jolly Pinder of Wakefield, 124.
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*The Lass of Roch Royal, 76 (Fair
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